VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
VIRGINIA SEAFOOD AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER
VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Building on the land-grant commitment to develop leaders, share knowledge, and invest in ecological resilience with hands-on applications to help Virginia thrive, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences strives to enhance:

Workforce Development for Economic Prosperity. Drive economic resilience with student learning experiences, educating career-ready graduates who support Virginia's #1 industry: agriculture.

Resource Stewardship. Protect Virginia's vital natural resources through evidence-based stewardship, leaving healthier land, water, and air for future generations.

Human and Ecological Health. Improve health and resilience of people, communities, plants, and animals across Virginia from the scientific front line.

Understanding and Communication. Confront Virginia's most pressing challenges through research in agriculture, life sciences, and community engagement.

CALS supports a collaborative network of:

11 Agricultural Research and Extension Centers (AREC), 107 Virginia Cooperative Extension offices, and six 4-H educational centers throughout Virginia in cooperation with Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station and Virginia Cooperative Extension.

10 Academic Departments for 3,600 associate, undergraduate, and graduate students in 68 unique programs of study.

Over $500,000 in **public-private partnership** support annually.

LEARN MORE

cals.vt.edu

VIRGINIA SEAFOOD

Agricultural Research and Extension Center

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arec.vaes.vt.edu/arec/virginia-seafood

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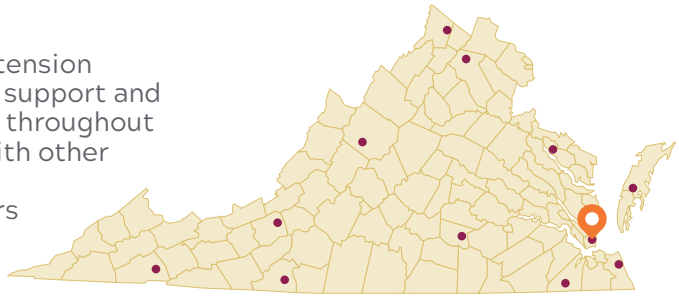
ABOUT THE VIRGINIA SEAFOOD AREC

The mission of the Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center is to provide education, scientific and technical guidance, support and leadership to the commercial seafood and aquaculture industries throughout Virginia and the United States. Our faculty work collaboratively with other researchers, Extension agents, and the industry to address the challenges and needs of our seafood and aquaculture stakeholders to ensure safe, sustainable, and wholesome seafood for all of us to enjoy.



RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS

- Food quality, safety, and security
- Process validation and engineering
- Cellular agriculture and alternative proteins
- Aquaculture
- Green energy
- Economics and marketing
- Public policy and regulatory impact assessment

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

- Aquaculture, including hydroponics, aquaponics
- Seafood producers, processors, distributors, and retailers
- Seafood end-users and consumers

FACILITIES

- Recirculating aquaculture systems
- Aquatic habitat systems
- Microbiology lab
- Cell culture lab
- Classroom for teaching and training

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

- Controlled environmental agriculture
- Developing blue catfish seafood economy
- Microbiome and nanobubble technologies
- AI, machine learning, and robotics

Strengthening Food-Safety Readiness: Extension guidance positioned Virginia processors ahead of national compliance-readiness standards, helping them implement sanitation and risk-prevention practices that protect consumers.

Improving Seafood Processing and Workforce Skills: Research-based sanitation and processing techniques help improve efficiency while training the next generation to support Virginia's growing food and seafood industry.

Turning Invasive Blue Catfish into Economic Value: Collaborative efforts to expand the market for invasive blue catfish contribute more than $200 million in economic impact through harvesting, processing, distribution, and retail sales.

LEARN MORE

https://brnw.ch/21x273I

OUR COLLABORATORS INCLUDE: USDA, Sorghum Checkoff, FDA, Sea Grant Virginia, NOAA, Sea Grant

Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station is a partnership of Virginia Tech and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is an equal opportunity employer. For the full non-discrimination statement, please visit https://www.vaes.vt.edu/accessibility.html.

VT/1026/AREC-304